



MRA INFORMATION SERVICE

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VOL. 12 NO. 292

FOUR HAYS MEWS, BERKELEY SQUARE, LONDON, W.1

SATURDAY, 27 APRIL, 1963

'WE ARE AT THE THIRD STAGE'

by HARRY ADDISON*

A RECENT ARTICLE in *Kommunist*, the leading dialectical organ of the Soviet Union, describes Moral Re-Armament as 'certainly the most prominent association which aims to save western civilisation from Communism'. It also declares that the action of Moral Re-Armament is taking place 'at a time when the ideology and morals of the bourgeois world are bankrupt and are going through a serious crisis.'

That is a Communist diagnosis of the West. Is it correct?

I recall a cartoon which appeared in the *Scottish Daily Express* during the summer of 1940. France had fallen. The British troops had been evacuated from Dunkirk. Denmark and Norway had been overrun. The Nazis and the Russians were still in alliance. The Americans had not yet come into the war. We were standing alone. The cartoon depicted two kilted Scots gravely discussing the situation. One of them was saying, 'If they English make a separate peace, it's going to be a lang war.'

Today we are in fact—and this is not rhetoric—at a Dunkirk. Mr. Peter Howard, through whose plays at this theatre tens of thousands have found fresh hope and faith, says in an Easter message, 'It is the winter-tide of civilisation. We are in the midst of a world-wide and terrible onslaught on faith, hope and spirit. Ancient virtues are scorned and slashed away. Satan strides forward to inherit the earth.'

Out to destroy character

Is Britain a Christian country? Take a coin out of your pocket and look at the inscription on one side of it. What do you read? That the Queen is the 'Defender of the Faith'—the Christian faith. Britain by its constitution is not a secular country. It is a Christian country. Its character, its moral code, its legal system are built on its Christian faith and heritage. Today there are men, a dedicated intelligent force, who are out to

destroy the Christian character of Britain—and not only that, but the Christian faith from which that character springs and from which it is constantly replenished. That is what we are facing.

I have here a cutting from *The Observer* of 7 April. It is from the column headed 'Comment', which I take it is editorial in character. It is discussing Mr. Abse's divorce bill, one of the provisions of which is that divorce by consent after seven years should become legal. The leaders of all the Christian Churches in this country have come out publicly in opposition to that clause in the bill. *The Observer's* comment is: 'The churches are entitled like everyone else to try to persuade M.P.s and the public that their views are right. What they are not entitled to do is to claim a special position on the question of divorce. In a society which has largely, if tacitly, rejected the Christian religion, there is no case for arguing that the divorce laws should be based on Christian theology.'

What basis for society?

If somebody had suggested in June, 1940, that the war was virtually over, that we could not possibly win and therefore we might as well acquiesce in defeat, what should we have called him? Are we today going to accept the conclusion that the struggle for our Christian heritage is virtually over, and that we may as well acquiesce in defeat?

I should like to raise two questions on *The Observer's* comment. The first is this. If we are not going to base our moral standards and legal system in matters of sex upon the Christian faith, what are we going to base them on? Social expediency? The morality of the class struggle? The moral code, or lack of it, which certain elements in this country are pushing hard at this moment?

Here is the second question. If we are not going to base our divorce laws on Christian theology, is there any good reason why we should continue to base any other laws on Christian theology? Where is it going to end? In moral anarchy. And moral anarchy today can lead

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to one thing only—ideological dictatorship.

It is not just a question of moral decline. Fifty years ago we might have talked about that. But today, as Peter Howard reminds us, behind the onslaught on faith 'marches Communism, hungry for world dominion, the only idea that gains from godlessness, lack of purpose and moral disintegration in the world.'

We have gone through three stages. The first began a generation or more ago when a group of committed men decided to undermine the faith and morals of Britain as a preparation for take-over. For years they have been doing it, deliberately and with great cleverness—quietly at first and then more openly.

Next there comes a time when they step forward and declare that the nation has already rejected the Faith, that we may as well accept the new situation and make our moral code and legal system fit in with it. That is the second stage.

But now comes a third stage—the most sinister of all. From within the Church itself people arise who are prepared to re-interpret the Christian faith, and the moral code which springs from it, in terms which conform with the aims and demands of those who are out to destroy our Christian faith and enslave our country. That is where we are today.

Bertrand Russell, whom some regard as a great fighter for peace, said years ago that he had built his philosophy

on the firm foundation of unyielding despair. Today a whole theology is being built on a deliberate rejection of the redeeming power of Christ, and man's need for it.

In 1938 the BBC invited Frank Buchman to give a broadcast talk in a series on 'The Validity of Religious Experience.' You will find his address in *Remaking the World* (his collected speeches) under the title 'Chaos Against God'. It is even more urgently relevant today than when he made it. 'Some expression of religious experience greater than ever before must be called into being,' he said, 'something instinctively recognised by everyone as the long hoped for solvent of every problem.' And he went on, 'Our great need today is not to vouch for its validity by argument or explanation, but to demonstrate it by creating new men, new nations, a new world.' 'To be valid in these decisive days,' he declared, 'our religious experience must once again become a marching, fighting, conquering world force.'

That is the Christian experience, the Easter experience that God longs to give us. It depends on our own decisions. Frank Buchman once defined a patriot as a man who gives his life for his country's resurrection. If we make the simple decisions which will turn us into patriots of that kind, we shall roll back this evil tide which threatens to destroy us. Our faith will once again be so compelling that nations shall run unto us because of the Lord our God.

Tackling apathy and low production

FROM ALL PARTS of the British Isles 704 people met in London at Easter. Their aim, reported the London *South Western Star*, was to 'mobilize a force of people to end the debasement of character, debunking of patriotism and distortion of Christianity' in the nation.

The conference studied the role of theatre in building the character of the nation. In the last eighteen months 235,000 people have seen four productions launched by the Westminster Theatre, members of the theatre staff told the Assembly.

Men from the docks, aircraft, engineering and shipyard industries described the steps they were taking to tackle the apathy and class war at the root of Britain's unemployment and low production figures.

A shop steward in one of the largest aircraft manufacturing companies said that his aim in life had been to build himself a boat, buy a car and fix himself up with a blonde. He had been shaken when a Communist fellow-worker accused him of 'abandoning the spirit of Moral Re-Armament and becoming tainted with the worst features of capitalism—greed for gold.' Then he had seen the musical *Space Is So Startling* and decided to live to cure the increasing class war in Britain, starting in his own factory.

He apologised to the charge-hand for his hatred, got honest with the rate-fixer about cheating on his wages,

and in the better atmosphere thus created, tackled the problems of the low-paid workers in his department, resulting in increases in both wages and production.

George Walker, chairman of shop stewards in a West London factory, said MRA meant fighting to put things right in the place where one worked. There had been a definite improvement in the relationship between management and men as a result of his doing this. Workers had said to him, 'We have elected you shop steward because you are the best trade union man we have got.' A divisional superintendent told him, 'We have had good shop stewards before, but you are the first who has united the shop.'

Men who had always refused to join the union had asked to do so, saying, 'We want to back you up.'

Recently, Walker said, the management had decided on a re-organisation which resulted in workers being laid off. 'I suggested that instead of treating the workers as so many mechanical units, they try treating them as people and enlisting their help in making the factory pay. It was a new idea to the management but they accepted it, and for the first time agreed to give the workers their cost targets.'

Anyone, in any kind of job, could take up this fight, said Walker. If enough people did it, it would transform the economy of the country.

Nehru tells Kerala M.P.s: 'Go ahead'

A DELEGATION of M.P.s from the South India State of Kerala told Prime Minister Nehru in New Delhi how Kerala can help to unite India in crisis.

They reported to the Prime Minister on their experiences at Assemblies in Caux, Switzerland, and Odawara, Japan, and on the steps they had taken in their private and public lives to end corruption and factional rivalries.

Two of the delegation, P. C. Cherian and M. C. Chacko, formerly belonged to violently opposed political groups. Mr. Nehru smiled when Cherian reminded him of the time he had sent a telegram asking for the Prime Minister's intervention. It was when Chacko and his

followers had forcibly taken control of the Congress Party office, then headed by Cherian. 'Now we are very close friends,' said Cherian, turning to Chacko. 'We have no enmity towards anybody.'

Pointing out that their delegation was drawn from different communities—Nair, Ezhava, Catholic and Syrian Christian—Cherian said, 'Communal harmony in Kerala has greatly increased because of this spirit. We are confident that with God's help we can within twelve months turn Kerala, which has been considered the problem State, into the answer State for India.'

Said the Prime Minister, 'You go ahead.'

All-race Assembly in South Africa

FOR the first time in the history of Johannesburg an Assembly of all races took place in the heart of the African townships, where 600,000 people live. Asians, Africans, Coloureds and Whites converged from all corners of the Republic for a four-day Easter Conference, many driving a thousand miles through the night.

During the sessions an African cast presented Peter Howard's play, *The Dictator's Slippers*, for the first time in South Africa. Students of Stellenbosch University, a stronghold of Afrikanerdom, where four out of five South African prime ministers were educated, invited the cast to give the play in Stellenbosch Town Hall.

These students were part of a group of forty young South Africans, from English, Afrikaans, African and Coloured universities and schools who together pledged themselves at the Assembly to answer injustice, decadence and division in the nation.

Other invitations to present the play came from Pretoria, Durban, and students of Rhodes and Capetown Universities.

Full pages in the *Rand Daily Mail* and *The Daily World*, the country's leading African paper, described the aims of the Assembly as:

—a nation at peace within itself, and a peacemaker

and pacemaker for the African continent.

—a moral and spiritual revolution in sport-loving youth that will add to physical toughness the moral toughness that will secure the future.

—a nation that will restore to the world the discipline of purity, the sanctity of home life and patriots who live to bring their country under God's control.

—a nation whose work and wealth are available for all and for the exploitation of none.

—a nation that sets itself the task of winning for every man in Africa the blessings of food, work, freedom and faith.

Wives of men who are political prisoners in South Africa today were among those present. One political prisoner asked his wife to relay every detail of the Assembly to him. An African lawyer said, 'You have thrown out a challenge to the whole nation. There is nothing to do but accept.'

The Crowning Experience, which was the first film of its kind to be passed by the South African Board of Censors for exhibition to any audience, was running in both European and African areas of Johannesburg last week. During 34 recent showings in the African townships, 15,000 families were visited and invited to the film.

Rhodesians seek solutions in Kenya

MINERS from North Rhodesia's Copperbelt and businessmen from South Rhodesia flew to an Easter Assembly in Kenya. Its aim was to raise up men determined to conquer corruption, division and bloodshed in Africa and provide food, work and a satisfying ideology for all.

The Assembly was held on Narosurra farm in the Rift Valley, where delegates were able to see practical solutions being worked out to Kenya's land problems and ways to achieve a successful multi-racial society.

Men from South and North Rhodesia said that MRA

forces, whose value had been proved in trouble spots like Kenya and Cyprus, should be brought to bear on the leaders and masses of the Rhodesias. Joe Oliver, chairman of an important branch of the Northern Rhodesia Mineworkers' Union and leader of some of the Copperbelt's biggest strikes, said he was determined to apply in Rhodesia what he had learnt at the Assembly.

White and black South African delegates were invited to visit Jomo Kenyatta at his home in Gatundu. During an hour with him they reported on the Assembly and discussed with him the moral re-armament of Africa.

A doctor on 'The New Morality'

By a Medical Correspondent

A 'NEW MORALITY' is now being proclaimed which calls upon the modern generation to discard the age-old standards of moral behaviour in the realm of sex relationships.

The purpose of sex and marriage is to provide for the continuation of the race so that children may be conceived, born and brought up in the proper environment for their development as healthy and creative citizens.

This purpose is being ignored and a mistaken concept is emerging of sexual relationships simply as a source of pleasure. As a doctor with forty years experience in general and hospital practice and medical administration, I have seen the results of sex indulgence in terms of human suffering, disease and frustration both for the present and for future generations.

The 'New Morality' pays no regard to the penalties associated with the wrong use of sex. In spite of contraceptive appliances and techniques the danger of illegitimate or unwanted pregnancy and disease remain. No precautions are completely safe. In 1961, for instance, there were 41,648 babies born in Great Britain with the blight of bastardy put upon them through no fault of their own. In the L.C.C. area one birth in eight is illegitimate.

B.M.A. enquiry

Sexually contracted disease remains a danger in spite of precautions employed to minimise it. It is increasing alarmingly among teenagers and is the subject of a special enquiry by the British Medical Association. Venereal diseases lead to blindness, paralysis, heart disease, rheumatism, insanity and sterility. They affect unborn children, causing miscarriages, still births, deformities and fatal conditions.

It is an erroneous belief that sex activity is necessary for full health and the enjoyment of life. Spiritual Power is available to anyone and can

re-direct the sexual urges of the homosexual or hetero-sexual.

It is being said that charity is more important than chastity. But it is forgotten that the most uncharitable thing is unchastity. Another person's body cannot be used selfishly without doing harm in some form or another. The morals of sex are related to the whole moral code. Unless people have respect for their own and each others' bodies, they may not have respect for others' property, reputation, time or well-being. The debunking of sexual morality leads to moral anarchy. The inevitable result of this is family and national decay. Then comes dictatorship to prevent complete disintegration.

Most important safeguard

Chastity is the most important safeguard for health and a nation's future. Unchastity is physically unnecessary, scientifically and morally wrong. It is advocated by two groups—the morally defeated, whether Christians or atheists, who seek grounds to excuse their own indulgences; and the ideologically subversive who use immorality to blackmail leaders and soften up the nation for take-over.

People and nations that take on the remaking of the world as their over-riding purpose in life, accept absolute moral standards as a necessary instrument for achieving this goal. They find freedom and fulfilment and they bring a cure to the moral anarchy that is deadly in a nuclear age.

Their thoughts and desires focus, not on their lusts, but on such gigantic tasks as feeding the hungry of the world, providing work for the unemployed, ending race and class discrimination and breaking down the barriers between East and West. Their strength and their nation's strength are as the strength of ten because their hearts and motives are pure.

NEWS IN BRIEF

London, England—Conrad Hunte, Vice-Captain of the West Indies Cricket Team, was interviewed by sports commentator Brian Johnston on the BBC's Home Service programme 'Today.'

Asked how much time he was devoting to MRA, Hunte replied, 'It is a way of life—I shall be living in the spirit of MRA wherever I am—it is part of a Christian's make-up.' He said he had given a considerable part of his money to bring the play, *Space Is So Startling*, to the Caribbean.

On his team's attitude to their British tour, starting 1 May, Hunte said, 'Attack is the word.'

Montreal, Canada—The Canadian première of *Music At Midnight* this week was sponsored by the Lieutenant Governor and Prime Minister of Quebec Province and the Mayor of Montreal.

Brasilia, Brazil—The President of Congress and all the members of the Supreme Court greeted Muriel Smith, star of *The Crowning Experience*, when the film was shown here. It has begun a four-year run to 1,200 cinemas throughout Brazil.

United States—72 national trade unions with twelve million membership and 400 local unions received representatives of *Music At Midnight* and informed union members about the play. Union officials served on every sponsoring committee during the 24-city tour.

Nukualofa, Tonga—Her Majesty Queen Salote invited leaders of Tonga to see the first South-West Pacific screening of *The Crowning Experience*.

Scandinavia—Easter Assemblies for the Nordic North were held in Elsinore, Denmark, and Porvoo, Finland.

Luluaburg, Congo—The daily *Le Progrès* reported that MRA films in this province 'have contributed to the moral re-armament of the population, countering separatist elements which continue to sow discord.'